APPENDIX E.

The Dewan's Introductory Remarks in Announcing His Highness' Proclamation on the Constitutional Developments in Mysore.

(Dated 27th October 1923.)

On this solemn and auspicious occasion when the fiat of His Highness' dispensation, which, by command I am about to pronounce, goes forth as his benign gift to his people, with sincere expressions of good-will and bright hopes for their future happiness and prosperity, it is not appropriate, that I should attempt to expatiate on the scheme that has been ultimately decided upon and sanctioned as most suitable for adoption at the present moment in Mysore. Neither do I think it necessary to offer any word of justification. After the announcement made last year, of His Highness' resolve to give larger opportunities to his people in the sphere of public administration, many shades of opinion of great divergence emanating from different schools of political thought, have been put forward before us. There are, even to this day, some who entertain grave misgivings as regards the wisdom of the policy that is proposed to be pursued and they have not failed to utter a solemn note of warning. There are, on the other hand, others who have honestly felt that the announcement fell short of the expectations and aspirations of the people. Between the two opposite poles of judgment, criticisms and suggestions have been received from many quarters, some of which have complicated the problems and confused the issues involved without helping materially in their solution. Amidst all these conflicting ideals, it was not an easy task to steer a clear and safe course fixing the compass towards the goal which we have had in view. I can only plead that before judgment is pronounced, the scheme in all its essentials be carefully examined. It is idle to expect that all shades of opinion will welcome it as entirely satisfactory from their points of view. There will be a few, who in the usual customary way will proclaim, as in every country in which Constitutional Reform has been introduced in the past, that the scheme does not adequately meet popular aspirations. There will also be a few who entertain the fear that His Highness' Government are launching themselves into the unknown. Neither view will appeal to the sober-minded and to those conversant with the true situation as correct. I feel confident that the time will come sooner or later when the scheme will justify itself as being in the best interests of the country. When making the announcement, Government were not persuaded by any insistent demand from the people. The developments contemplated were in keeping with past policy, and with the past constitutional progress in Mysore. Further, Government have not shown any undue haste in coming to a decision on the various important problems that were before them. They have taken a long time over it, specially with a view to ascertain the opinion of the country and the views of the leading public men; and further they have

had the advantage of a luminous report of a representative Committee to which the task of working out the details was entrusted. The decisions follow, in the main, the unanimous recommendations of the Committee in which were represented all the talent, sterling common sense and intimate knowledge of local conditions available in the State. Wherever there has been any disagreement or deviation, it will be observed that invariably the Government have followed the opinion of the majority and where they have differed from the Committee's recommendations, they have taken a more liberal view and extended further the scope to which the original announcement was limited. At the present juncture, it is needless for me to urge that one and all have but one solemn duty, *viz.*, to accept with reverential gratitude what is granted, with a determination to make His Highness' decree a big success and to make it achieve those ideals of good, stable and progressive administration, which His Highness has always cherished and of which the present scheme is a reflection and a fulfilment.

Although due recognition of the labours of the Committee has been made in the comprehensive Government Order issued to-day on the whole subject of the constitutional changes promulgated, it is nevertheless my duty to speak a few words on the subject. The Committee have bestowed, on the difficult task entrusted to them, industry, patience as well as forethought. Their report is one of the most remarkable and interesting documents in constitutional development in recent years and has evoked praise from eminent statesmen both in India and in Europe. The questions involved not being simple from the historic standpoint or from the point of view of the future evolution of Mysore, raised many difficult and intricate issues which have been disentangled and envisaged in their true perspective, so that there may be no misconception in regard to the main objects His Highness had in view and to the ultimate form in which the scheme was likely to be crystalized in its final shape, in harmony with local conditions and past tradition. The Government cannot be too thankful to Dr. Brajendra Nath Seal, the Chairman, for the erudition, scholarship, and grasp of the very fundamental principles underlying the Mysore Constitution and his very able guidance which enabled the members to make satisfactory and definite proposals on all matters, some of which, even after the announcement, required considerable study and examination. I now convey to Dr. Seal our warmest thanks and congratulations on the successful result of his disinterested labours, and I am sure, the Representative Assembly will echo my sentiments. To the other members of the Committee also, both individually and collectively, I beg to tender the best thanks of the Government. Their task was not easy. Amidst divergent points of view and outlook, they brought about unanimity and harmony through concentration of attention on essential points; and although there was considerable delicacy in the position they were placed in, as well as the temptation to support directly or indirectly, what may be called, popular views of a few who failed to recognise the priniciple of a steady growth on foundations already built by the sagacity and shrewd judgment of His Highness' benign rule, they have I am bound to recognise, performed their most difficult task with remarkable moderation. I have every confidence

that public sentiment will receive the sanctioned scheme with a spirit of hope and general satisfaction, and both the Government and the people will now work together to realise to the fullest extent the meaning as well as the object of these important changes.

Personally, I feel infinitely proud, to have been associated with His Highness and His Government during this interesting period in the History of Mysore, in ushering in these changes and thereby carrying out His Highness' gracious commands. The scheme will have to be worked with patience and careful adjustments. It will be watched with the greatest interest by friends of Mysore outside the State. Its ultimate success will depend on the harmonious blending of all the healthy activities of both Government and the people.

The Dewan's position in the new order of the public administration of the State will demand from him the highest statesmanship, great courage and robust faith in the people. It is not for me to lay claim to those qualities that must be brought into play in successfully working and consolidating the new and strange elements now introduced in the Mysore constitution. But I can say this, that I will not spare myself nor will I falter at the magnitude of the task that lies before me. I shall, to the best of my ability, use every opportunity that is afforded to me as head of the administration to give a liberal interpretation to the main principles underlying these changes, and endeavour loyally and faithfully to serve the true and best interests of all classes amongst the people, by leading them along the high road of constitutional progress so that both Government and the people, by their united efforts, may afford a true justification, if any were needed, as well as ensure a proper fulfilment of the cherished ideals of His Highness' benevolent policy.

With these few words, I have now the greatest pleasure, in obedience to the command of His Highness the Maharaja, to read His Highness' Proclamation.